

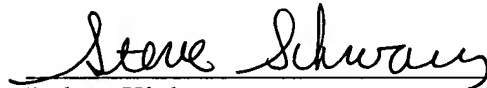
Applicant: Alessandro Scardovi et al.  
Appl. No.: 10/538,749

**REMARKS**

The first paragraph of the specification has been amended to replace "19 December 2002" with "23 December 2002" to correct an inadvertent typographical error. It is respectfully requested that the amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312. The amendment was not presented earlier because the typographical error was recently noticed. Hence, it is respectfully requested that the amendment be entered and that the application be passed to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

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